

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/810,844
Reply to Office Action dated August 25, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 3-8 are hereby amended. Claims 15-18 are new. Claims 3-7 are rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 2, and 14 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

New claims 15-18 consist of the subject matter of original claim 8, depending from independent claims 4-7 respectively. Claim 8 is amended to correct a spelling error and dependency.

The amendment to claim 4, reciting "said signal interface of said hard disk..." is supported on page 2, lines 11-15. Objections raised by the Examiner regarding claims 3 and 9 being identical to claims 4 and 10 have been addressed by the claim 4 amendment.

Claims 1, 2, 8, and 14 were rejected as being anticipated by Holehan (US 6,337,918). Applicant traverses this rejection. Claims 1, 2, and 14 are cancelled. Applicant is not conceding the relevance of Holehan to the cancelled claims. Regarding claim 8, it has been amended to depend from independent claim 3. Therefore, the rejection is rendered moot. Favorable reconsideration of claim 8 is requested.

Claims 3-7 and 9-13 were rejected as being unpatentable over Holehan in view of Brown (US 5,859,968). Brown does not remedy the deficiencies of Holehan. The Examiner notes that connecting a power supply, an "electronic controlled switch" (hard disk controller), hard disk, and "access controller interface" (fingerprint identifier) is taught by Brown. However, Brown does not suggest that the access controller (12) is used to control the connection between the hard disk body and the power supply interface. Claim 3 requires that the hard disk body and power supply interface are internal to the hard disk (also see figure 1). In contrast, Brown teaches that the controller (12) is connected with an accessing party (keyboard or external drive), outside of the hard disk (see figure 1 and the Abstract). Favorable reconsideration of claims 3 and 9 is requested. Claim 9 depends from independent claim 3.

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Claim 4 is distinguished from claim 3 in the feature that the signal interface (reference 26 in figure 2) is connected to the hard disk body through the electric controlled switch. The above remarks for claim 3 similarly apply to claim 4, as applied to the "signal interface" versus the "power supply interface". Favorable reconsideration of claims 4 and 10 is requested. Claim 10 depends from independent claim 4.

Claims 5-7, require that the hard disk is further comprised of a disk cavity that is connected with the control board through the hard disk's "electric controlled switch" to the external control interface of the fingerprint identifier. Again, Brown does not suggest that the access controller (12) is used to control this connection, as the connection is internal to the hard disk body and therefore inaccessible to the external access controller of Brown. Favorable reconsideration of claims 5-7 and claims 11-13 is requested. Claims 11-13 depend from independent claim 5-7.

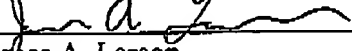
In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Michael D. Schumann, Reg. No. 30,422, at (612)336-4638.



Respectfully submitted,

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